

The President's Daily Brief

February 13, 1976

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CHINA

China's political leftists, having successfully blocked the appointment of Teng Hsiao-ping as premier, are increasing their attacks on him.

Wall posters attacking Teng began appearing at Peking University on February 10. The posters do not mention Teng by name but, by quoting some of his well-known statements, make it clear that he is their target. They reiterate criticism, employed late last week, against "capitalist roaders" in the party, an expression used a decade ago to disgrace Teng during the Cultural Revolution. The official party newspaper yesterday published its second attack within a week on "capitalist roaders who refuse to repent." This theme has been picked up by several provinces.

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The party's left wing presumably is engaged in an effort to purge Teng from his remaining party and military positions. It would be premature, however, to conclude that the left wing will succeed in marshaling sufficient support to remove Teng from office. Posters have not yet appeared elsewhere in the country, and attacks in the media do not yet amount to a propaganda barrage.

Teng has not appeared in public since he delivered the eulogy at Chou En-lai's funeral on January 15. In view of the attacks, Teng may be deliberately avoiding the limelight. A continued and prolonged absence would strongly suggest that he had been unable to surmount his troubles.

USSR-CHINA

Soviet media are replaying foreign press accounts which stress that Hua Kuofeng's appointment as China's acting premier is evidence of serious political turmoil in Peking. The Soviets have observed, however, that Hua may have been a compromise candidate acceptable to both moderates and radicals.

A Soviet embassy officer in Peking characterized Hua as a good administrator, well suited to the task of building China, and with more foreign policy experience than is generally assumed. He commented that Hua had been less "vindictive" in his statements against the Soviet Union than other Chinese spokesmen.

The Soviet officer said Moscow expects no early change in China's foreign policy as a result of the appointment, although he professed to see some diminution in the output of China's anti-Soviet propaganda since Hua was named acting premier.

We, on the other hand, have so far detected no appreciable change in China's propaganda treatment of the USSR.



MOROCCO - ALGERIA - SPANISH SAHARA

Rabat confirmed yesterday that Moroccan forces now control Mahbes, the last remaining stronghold of the Polisario guerrillas in the northeastern Sahara.

Moroccan forces have also taken over Guelta, a Polisario position in east-central Sahara, according to press reports from Rabat. Morocco's military sweep against the Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas is now virtually complete.

Algiers' decision not to confront Moroccan forces during Rabat's latest military advance may have been part of an arrangement negotiated by Eyptian and Saudi Arabian mediators. Egyptian Vice President Mubarak, in particular, may have urged during his shuttle last week that the Algerians pull out to avoid a clash.

Algerian President Boumediene and several other senior officials flew to Tripoli yesterday for talks with Libyan President Qadhafi. Libya has been Algeria's chief supporter in the dispute with Morocco over Spanish Sahara, and Qadhafi has publicly admitted that he has provided military support to the Polisario guerrillas.

INDIA

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NOTES

Radio Nigeria announced this morning that a coup had to \overline{ppled} the seven-month-old regime of General Muhammed. Unidentified "young revolutionaries" reportedly have taken control of the government.

Muhammed came to power last July in a coup by middle-grade officers. The emphasis in the early days of his regime was on a collegial-style leader-ship. In recent months, however, there have been signs of dissatisfaction among younger members of the ruling military council who have charged that Muhammed and other senior officers were dominating decision-making.

London will announce further cuts in the $\underline{\text{British}}$ defense budget next week.

The UK will not consult NATO formally on the defense reductions on the grounds that the cuts are not major. The actual reason for avoiding NATO consultations is the Labor government's concern that Alliance criticism of the cuts could be used by the Conservative Party to bolster its own position. The Conservatives have consistently maintained that in view of Warsaw Pact military strength the government should not reduce its defense budget.

London is prepared to consult with the US and West Germany in a bilateral context and will provide both with specific details of the reductions several weeks before they are made public in late March or early April.

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